

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended. Claims 7, 14, and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-19 remain pending in the application. Applicant believes that the amendments to the claims do not raise any new issues of patentability, and thus the entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections:

Claims 1-4, 8-11, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Driller, U.S. Patent 5,109,596. Claims 5-7, 12-14, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Driller. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection, Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 7, claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 14, and claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 20. None of claims 7, 14, or 20 were originally subject to the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection. Applicant submits that in light of the amendments to claims 1, 8, and 15, that the cited reference does not teach or suggest all of the elements of the independent claims. Accordingly, removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

With regard to the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection, Applicant submits that **there is no suggestion to combine the references**. The teaching of Driller were discussed in the previous office action response.

Independent claim 1 recites, in pertinent part:

“a plurality of contact pins each configured to convey electrical signals ... wherein one or more of said plurality of contact pins is formed from a pliable

resistive material, wherein said pliable resistive material has a resistance value greater than five ohms” (Emphasis added).

Independent claims 8 and 15 recite similar combinations of features.

In the current office action, the Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use a pliable resistive material having a resistance value of greater than five ohms, and further states that it was known in the art that it will help reduce noise in the circuit and also to obtain desired conductivity in the circuit. The Examiner cites element 54 of U.S. Patent Publication 20020108778 (hereinafter ‘Dishongh’) and U.S. Patent 6,108,212 (hereinafter ‘Lach’). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner for the following reasons.

It is well known in the art that noise in electronic systems may be expressed in terms of voltage. Thus noise, in terms of voltage, can be expressed as a product of noise current and resistance/impedance (that is, $V = I \times R$). Therefore, the noise is directly proportional to resistance, and any lower limit on the resistance value will limit the amount of noise reduction that it possible for a given current value. It is further noted that, theoretically, all noise could be eliminated by reducing the resistance value to zero ohms. Thus, Applicant submits that one skilled in the art motivated by noise reduction would not limit the resistance to a value that is greater than five ohms, as such a limitation would limit the amount of noise reduction possible.

MPEP 2141.02 states that the prior art must be considered in its entirety, including disclosures that teach away from the claims. Applicant notes that Disnough is directed to the reduction of noise coupling between, for example, signal lines (see abstract of Disnough), and thus Applicant submits that Disnough would also be directed towards the reduction of noise. Thus, in light of the above remarks, Applicant submits that when combined with Driller and Lach, Disnough would teach away from the claims, as one motivated to reduce noise coupling (and therefore reduce noise as suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action) would not implement contact pins formed from a pliable

resistive material having a resistance greater than five ohms, as recited in the independent claims.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the assertion that Lach discloses a specific resistance value of a contact pin as claimed, as the Examiner asserts in the 'Response to Arguments' section. Applicant notes that Lach teaches a *resistivity* value, which is different from a *resistance* value. Lach teaches, in column 5, lines 9-11, a resistive material having a bulk resistivity within a range from approximately 5 ohm-centimeters to 100 ohm-centimeters. Using the lower end of this range, 5 ohm-centimeters, a contact pin having a length of less than one centimeter would have a resistance of less than 5 ohms, and thus would fall outside of the scope of Applicant's recited limitation of a pliable resistive material having a resistance of greater than five ohms. Furthermore, neither Driller nor Lach recite any specific dimensions for contact pins, and thus Applicant submits, absent any specific dimensions, the resistivity values taught by Lach do not teach a particular resistance value. Applicant therefore submits that the cited references, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the elements of the independent claims.

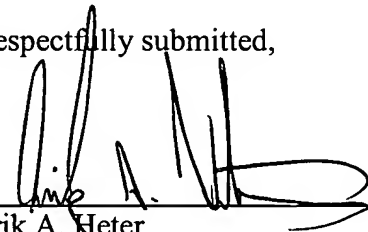
For at least the reasons stated above, Applicant submits that a case of obviousness has not been established. Accordingly, removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-66200/EAH.

Respectfully submitted,



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